

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES
COUNCIL MINUTES
May 17, 2006**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at the Town Hall. Town Council President Louise Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with Councilpersons Benjamin Bolton and John Wilhelm, Clerk-Treasurer Beverly Hubbs, and Town Attorney Stacey Mindel in attendance. Council President Louise Roberts opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ben Bolton moved that the minutes for April 18 be approved, John Wilhelm seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF APRIL 30, 2006:

Fifth Third	\$55,062.72
Chase-Bank One	\$188,517.85
First State Bank of Porter Checking Account	\$82,245.34
Total	\$325,825.91

John Wilhelm moved that the financial report be approved as presented, Ben Bolton seconded, and the financial report was approved unanimously.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

There were questions about the total payroll for security officers so far this year. John Wilhelm moved that claims be approved but subject to review of this issue at the next meeting. Ben Bolton seconded, and the claims in the amount of \$24,662.74 were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A memo from the State Board of Accounts about a conference for Clerk-Treasurers was presented. The Council approved attendance at the conference for Sherry King, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, and Beverly Hubbs, Clerk-Treasurer. Training on budget preparation, state distributions, the open door law, new regulations, and duties of the office will be available. Costs are \$80 per person and an overnight hotel stay.

A letter from the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana was presented but no action taken. An announcement for a reception at the new Purdue North Central facility in Valparaiso on May 30 was received. Cheryl Evans was given correspondence about waste management recycling to consider.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

MUNICIPAL CODE: Bill Nixon

Bill Nixon said that Municipal Code Corporation did a great job of honoring all the work put into the rewriting of the code. He presented the proof copy, which contains both the before and after language. The Plan Commission must go through all of this to approve the final draft, which will be much shorter. It was agreed that Lou would contact Joan Rearick, Secretary of the Plan Commission, to set up a special meeting so that this can be finished as soon as possible. Bill said that he had received a bill already from Municode but that we have 3 years to pay for this and he will hold it for a while. The Councilpersons thanked Bill for all his work and all agreed that he has done a great job.

ROADS/TOWN ENGINEER: Irv Call

Irv said that the Bobcat they rented moved a lot of sand to clean up the beach road last week but that he will rent a bigger one next year.

He presented a memo about road resurfacing explaining that the contractor we have used in the past is not available so he solicited bids from three firms: Ristich Asphalt Paving, Aggregate Industries, and Palmer's Paving. He asked for clarification about how much money would be available for this work. The Council agreed that he could plan to spend as much as \$30,000 which is near the amount of the lowest bid received of \$29,750. Irv observed that the sooner the Town makes a decision the better the chance of a good price and of getting the work done. It is possible that the paving could begin before June. Lou remarked that we may get money from the toll road lease, which will help. There will be about 1,500 feet of paving, most of it on Oak Drive. The rest will be on Circle Drive. IAWC told Ben Bolton that they would repair the spots they damaged with hot patches. Ben said that he will call them back about this promise. Irv suggested that if they do not, we should make the repairs and either take the cost out of the Water Fund or send IAWC the bill.

Irv also discussed the property to be deeded to the Town for a turn-around on the south side of Shore Drive. He has gone ahead with the survey and drawings and wants to get them approved by the current

owner as soon as possible. After that he will stake out the area and solicit the approval of the neighbors.

He said that he will be filling fewer potholes this year, but will probably use about a ton of material.

BUILDING COMMISSION: John Sullivan

The Hawksworth property is about ready for inspection. Some sand still must be removed and John is planning to dump it in the washout on the north shoulder of Hill Road near the Flanagan house. John said that the Mellen's building plans look fine to him and were approved by the Plan Commission. A building permit will be issued. Nau's are planning to rebuild their deck and add a lower deck but it will all be within the setback requirements. John said that he signed the permit and told them to pay the fee.

Work has started on the house owned by sisters Jane O'Connor and Eileen McCahill at 3 Fern Lane. The work is all interior with no change in footprint but is substantial and includes adding a small kitchen downstairs and entirely re-doing a bathroom. The Council agreed that because of the extensive plumbing and electrical, and construction work, the renovation should stop and the plans be presented to the Plan Commission, perhaps at a special meeting.

John said that the Bapst at 12 Crest Drive are building a deck, which he approved and for which he issued them a building permit. Plans for work at 30 Crest Drive on the John Kramer residence and also at the Kudrna house at 19 Crest Drive were approved by the Plan Commission. Building permits will be issued.

MAINTENANCE: Mike Konopacki

Mike said that he needs to hire a new maintenance worker. He expressed concern about the hourly pay of \$11.90 and suggested that the Town might be better served to have him bid on jobs. There was general agreement among the Councilpersons who observed that the Murphy committee recommended that this would be a more economical way to get work done.

ENVIRONMENTAL: Cheryl Evans

Cheryl said that the cleanup was a huge success. Sixty bags of garlic mustard with about 100 plants in each at 30,000 seeds per plant means 180,000,000 potential plants were stopped from spreading. The Garden Walk, which is the next project, will be June 25. Greg Livovich is finished with his work on garlic mustard, but Sandy O'Brien is still cleaning some spots. Some large Tree of Heaven plants have been removed and the native plants are filling in.

FIREWORKS: Ben Bolton

Ben said that the fireworks and all of the Town's festivities for Independence Day will be on July 1. He has received approval from the State for the fireworks. Lou asked for a list of the donors so that they can be thanked and a running total of the amount received. Ben said that we can take donations until we have to pay, which is 30 days after the performance.

Lou expressed the Council's regrets on the loss of Town residents Phil Dunne, Thomas Heenan, and Bill Robertson. She also paid tribute to Harry Mark Petrakis who received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at I U Northwest during its commencement exercises at the Genesis Center in Gary on May 11.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ben Bolton moved to approve the Kramer addition and remodeling plans for 30 Crest Drive, John Wilhelm seconded, and the motion passed. John Wilhelm moved to approve the building plans for the new Mellen residence at 17 Ridge Drive. Ben Bolton seconded, and the motion passed. Ben moved to approve the remodeling at the Kudrna home at 19 Crest Drive as approved by the Plan Commission, John seconded, and the motion passed. The Council asked that Mr. Kudrna add his name and address to the plans and that he provide another copy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.